



SENATE REPUBLICAN

POLICY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2007

Iraq War Supplemental Withdrawal Provisions

On Monday, April 23, 2007, House and Senate conferees approved provisions constraining the ability of the President as Commander-in-Chief to direct the use of force in Iraq, and providing a date certain of no later than October 1, 2007 for beginning the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

First, the bill requires the President to make a determination by July 1, 2007 on whether the Iraqi government is taking action with respect to certain security and political reconciliation matters, such as whether it is providing U.S. and Iraqi forces “authority to pursue all extremists” (regardless of sect), sending security forces to Baghdad, amending the Constitution, and changing laws governing oil, elections, and the de-Baathification process.

The bill also withholds 50 percent of certain reconstruction funds until the President can make these, and other, certifications.

The bill then sets up its timeline for withdrawal. If the President fails to make any of these determinations, it requires U.S. forces to be withdrawn from Iraq beginning no later than July 1, 2007, with the goal of completing such a withdrawal within 180 days. It then provides that even if the President can make the required determinations, withdrawal is to begin no later than October 1, 2007, with the goal of completing such a withdrawal within 180 days.

Next, the bill provides that U.S. forces may not be maintained in Iraq after the withdrawal period for any purpose other than certain enumerated purposes, such as training and equipping Iraqi Security Forces, or “engaging in targeted special actions limited in duration and scope to killing or capturing members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations with global reach.”

Finally, unless waived by the President, which the bill permits, the bill requires that none of the funds may be used to:

- deploy an armed forces unit to Iraq that is not “fully mission capable;”
- extend the deployment of an Army unit in Iraq beyond 365 days, or a Marine Corps unit beyond 210 days; or
- deploy an Army unit to Iraq that has been deployed in the last 365 days, or a Marine Corps unit that has been deployed in the last 210 days.